



California Forestry Association

1215 K Street, Suite 1830
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 444-6592 fax (916) 444-0170
www.foresthealth.org cfa@foresthealth.org

July 28, 2006

A. G. Kawamura
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room A-400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: 2007 Farm Bill Comments

Dear Mr. Kawamura:

We appreciate the leadership of your Department in seeking suggested changes in the 2007 Farm Bill that would be of benefit to California. We are unable to participate in the August 1 listening session and, therefore, are offering these written comments. We have one suggestion that we believe would provide a significant benefit to the biomass industry in California.

The California Forestry Association (CFA) is a trade association whose members are producers of forest products, forest landowners, and natural resource professionals committed to environmentally sound policies, sustainable use of renewable resources and responsible forestry.

Of utmost concern to CFA is the lack of appropriations to fund Section 210 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that authorized up to \$20/ton to offset the purchase cost of biomass material for a biomass power plant. From experience in northern California, we find that the cost of removal of forest biomass is such that about a 25-mile haul distance to an existing biomass power plant is the limit for an economic operation. An additional \$20/ton could add as much as 50 miles to the economic haul distance. Our information suggests that this additional \$20/ton could make as much as 1.7 million bone-dry tons of forest biomass available to power plants annually. 1.7 million bone-dry tons is enough fuel to generate an additional 210 megawatts of biomass-generated electricity; nearly a 40 percent increase over existing operating capacity.

\$20/ton could also be a major benefit to grind and transport agricultural prunings and orchard and vine removals to a biomass power plant. As you know, at the end of 2007 and 2010 respectively, open burning for these activities will no longer be allowed.

Sincerely,

STEVEN A. BRINK
Vice President – Public Resources